



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY
DHS Human Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Human Stem Cell Research (HSCR) Advisory Committee is to recommend to the Department of Health Services (DHS) scientific, medical, ethical and legal guidelines for research involving the derivation or use of human embryonic stem cells in California.

Since the technical expertise required to make informed decisions is often best obtained from individuals intimately involved in the field of interest, in this case stem cell research, it is reasonable to expect that individual bias and/or conflicts of interest may arise within HSCR Advisory Committee. A conflict of interest exists when a member has a financial, professional or personal interest that could be directly affected by a guideline developed by the HSCR Advisory Committee. Individual bias, however, does not necessarily imply a conflict.

Neither the HSCR Advisory Committee nor the Department of Health Services should be placed in a position in which others could reasonably question, discredit or dismiss the Committee's recommended guidelines on the basis of conflicts of interest. To ensure the guidelines recommended by this Committee are not compromised by such conflicts of interest, the HSCR Advisory Committee shall conform to the following procedures:

1. Each member shall submit to the Designated State Officer (DSO) a signed "Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure" statement, provided by the DSO, disclosing any financial, professional or personal conflicts of interest relevant to the activities of the HSCR Advisory Committee.
2. Should an issue arise within the proceedings of the HSCR Advisory Committee that constitutes a conflict of interest for an individual member of the Committee, the affected member may remain present during the discussion of that issue, but shall not participate in the development of any guideline related to that issue.
3. If a HSCR Advisory Committee member feels doubt as to whether a specific issue constitutes an individual conflict of interest, that member shall err on the side of caution to assure the potential conflict does not affect the credibility of the recommended guidelines developed by the HSCR Advisory Committee.

I understand and agree to abide by the conflict of interest policies of the HSCR Advisory Committee.

Signature

Date